

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 21, and 25 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1-6, 21, and 25 remain pending.

Claims 1-4, 21, and 25 are rejected.

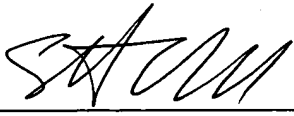
The rejections are respectfully traversed. As amended, claim 1 recites “an acoustic biosensor attached to at least one of the graft and the expandable support structure, the acoustic biosensor comprising means for converting acoustic energy received from an externally originated signal into a current supply for powering a pressure sensor embedded in the acoustic biosensor, the pressure sensor having at least a portion exposed to a region external to the stent graft to sense pressure beyond the outer surface of the graft within the weakened region of the blood vessel when the graft is secured within the blood vessel....” Neither Van Bockel (U.S. Patent No. 6,159,156) nor Cimochowski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,967,986) teach or suggest the claimed invention. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-6, 21, and 25 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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